

What Is Claimed Is:

1. A device for grasping cord-like objects comprising:

a hollow, substantially rigid shaft having a proximal end and a distal end, said distal end being pointed, and a lumen extending from said proximal end to said distal end;

a solid rod having a proximal end and a distal end, said rod being positioned in said lumen in reciprocally sliding relationship therewith;

first and second wire-like elements each having a distal end and a proximal end, said first and second wire-like elements being attached at their respective proximal ends to said distal end of said rod so as to extend distally therefrom, said first wire-like element defining a hook-shaped configuration adjacent to its distal end, and said distal ends of said first and second wire-like members being spring biased away from one another; and

activation means attached to said proximal end of said rod and to said proximal end of said shaft for moving said rod and said wire-like members between a first position wherein said distal ends of said wire-like members are contained within said shaft, and a second position wherein said distal ends of said wire-like members extend outwardly from said distal end of said shaft in flared relationship to one another.

2. A device according to claim 1 wherein said distal end of said shaft is curved.

3. A device according to claim 1 wherein said activation means includes spring biasing means for urging said rod and said wire-like members toward their said first position.

4. A method for grasping a cord-like object comprising:

(1) providing a device comprising:

a hollow, substantially rigid shaft having a proximal end and a distal end, said distal end being pointed, and a lumen extending from said proximal end to said distal end;

a solid rod having a proximal end and a distal end, said rod being positioned in said lumen in reciprocally sliding relationship therewith;

first and second wire-like elements each having a distal end and a proximal end, said first and second wire-like elements being attached at their respective proximal ends to said distal end of said rod so as to extend distally therefrom, said first wire-like element defining a hook-shaped configuration adjacent to its distal end, and said distal ends of said first and second wire-like members being spring biased away from one another; and

activation means attached to said proximal end of said rod and to said proximal end of said shaft for moving said rod and said wire-like members between a first position wherein said distal ends of said wire-like members are contained within said shaft, and a second position wherein said distal ends of said

wire-like members extend outwardly from said distal end of said shaft in flared relationship to one another;

(2) positioning said rod and said wire-like members in said first position;

(3) maneuvering said distal end of said shaft so that it is adjacent to the cord-like object which is to be grasped;

(4) positioning said rod and said wire-like members in said second position, and maneuvering said distal end of said shaft as needed so as to position said flared distal ends of said wire-like members on opposite sides of said cord-like object; and

(5) positioning said rod and said wire-like members in said second position so as to cause said first wire-like member to grapple said cord-like object and attach it to said distal end of said shaft.